



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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CONTACT: Patrick Gasper, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Two Marshfield students named Advanced Placement State Scholars, again

MADISON—For the second year in a row, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster congratulated two graduates from Marshfield High School for being named Wisconsin's 2008 Advanced Placement State Scholars.

Marcus Ewert and **Kathryn Leifheit** were recognized for their performance on the Advanced Placement exams. Last year, the state's annually honored female and male students also came from Marshfield.

Burmaster commended Ewert and Leifheit for their devotion to academic studies and praised the school community for its commitment to academic achievement. "Not only is this a personal achievement for the students," Burmaster said, "but it is also something that should make the community of Marshfield extremely proud."

Superintendent Bruce King agrees. "We are very proud of Kate and Marcus for their state scholar recognition," he said. "They are part of a long tradition of excellence at Marshfield High School—a nationally recognized tradition that includes more state scholars than any public school in Wisconsin. The continued success of all programs in the School District of Marshfield is directly related to a very supportive community, dedicated staff, and a talented student body that embraces rigor and challenging coursework."

Marshfield had 291 students take 794 Advanced Placement (AP) tests last year. Dave Roeglin, guidance counselor at Marshfield High School, credits both the community and faculty for the high levels of participation. "As a whole, they are extremely committed to their students and the AP concept," he said.

Ewert and Leifheit are among 106 students nationwide to receive Advanced Placement State Scholar Awards. This is the 18th year that the College Board's Advanced Placement Program has

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presented AP State Scholar Awards to the male and female student in each state and the District of Columbia based on AP exams. Award winners have grades of three or higher on the greatest number of AP exams and have the highest average grade (at least 3.5) on all AP exams in their state.

The AP program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while in high school and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the end-of-course AP exams. Scores of three, four, or five on AP exams generally are considered passing and worthy of credit at many universities.

“It is wonderful to see students taking advantage of opportunities like the AP program,” Burmaster said. “AP provides a rigorous academic experience that challenges students, preparing them for further studies.”

In 2008, more than 1.5 million high school students in 17,000 secondary schools worldwide took more than 2.7 million AP exams. During the 2007-08 school year, 26,593 Wisconsin students took 42,450 AP exams, with 67.2 percent earning a grade of three or higher on their exams, nearly 10 percent higher than the national average. Wisconsin schools had the most participants, and Wisconsin students scored highest on the AP tests in the Midwest.

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